WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Subsidy for flower exports

*286. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring down or subsidies air freight on export of flowers to boost exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) other steps proposed to boost export of flowers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Transport assistance is being extended to exporters of select products, including flowers, to the extent of 10% of the Free On Board (FOB) value of export subejct to a ceiling of 25% of the air freight or the specific rate fixed under the scheme, whichever is less. The total outlay of the scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan is limited to Rs. 80 crores.

(c) The other measures taken to boost export of flowers are:

(i) A Marketing Facilitation Centre has been set up in the Netherlands to organize marketing of Indian flowers, assist in clearing of cargo, improve presentation, assist Indian exporters on quality and market conditions and distribution of Indian products in the European Union.

(ii) Cargo handling and cold storage facilities at airports in Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Thiruvanantha-puram.

(iii) Agri Export Zones for flowers are being set up in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Uttaranchal and Maharashtra;

(iv) Wholesale-Market-cum-Flower Auction Centres are being set up at Bangalore, Mumbai and Noida for export of flowers; and

(v) Financial assistance to the registered exporters through plan schemes for Market Development, Infrastructure Development, Quality Development, Research & Development.

High Court Bench at Madurai

*288. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Court Bench at Madurai is a Full Bench or not;